GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:186
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
FUND FOR BENEFIT OF TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has constituted a fund for the benefit of telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the sources of finance for the fund;

(c) whether the Government has made any initial contribution to the fund; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has established the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund.

(b) The Fund has been established through issue of a regulation, viz., "Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007" (6 of 2007) dated 15th June, 2007 in gazette of India. Any amount charged from the subscribers in excess of the rates of telecommunication service determined under any regulation or order or direction made under the TRAI Act, or amount in excess of the rates announced by the service providers, where the rates have been notified under market forbearance and which could not be refunded to the concerned subscribers and thus lying as unclaimed with the service providers, shall constitute the corpus of the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007 does not provide for government funding.